

A LEISURE HOUR'S READING

WOODMAN, FELL THAT TREE.

Woodman, fell that tree,
Spare not a single bough;
In youth I lapped thee;
And I'll get even now.
Toss my sign to the wind,
That made it feel so hot,
And though you think it grand,
Woodman, spare it not.
The old familiar tree,
Whose branches were cut down
And spread all over me—
Woodman, lay it down;
Lay on thy vigorous stroke;
Cut out its earth-bound ties;
Oh, slash that every joint,
That filled my soul with sighs.
When I am laid to rest,
Hoping often placed,
In all my gibbering joy,
With Tommy's two sisters strayed,
My father caught me here,
My father pressed his hand—
Fondly this foolish tear
But don't let that oak stand.
My back would ache and sting,
My heart would be so sore,
And here the blow did ring
As I was forced to bend.
Down with it, woodman, brave,
Leave not a single joint,
While I my old wounds lave—
Inflicted on this spot.
—Knickerbocker Club.

WHEN IT WAS HOT.

"Speakin' of hot weather," said the oldest inhabitant (reported by the Brooklyn Eagle), as he unbuttoned his shirt and laid his hand on the table, "I don't regard it as even pleasantly warm; I've been out into the sun all day trying to get some heat into my system, and I tell you gentlemen, in confidence, I'm a bit chilly."
"Ever seen it any warmer at this season of the year?" asked the Eagle reporter.
"Wunna, I seen it in the Spring of 1819, so hot that you'd think this water was an iceberg. I was building a telegraph line to South America, and what do you think we used for poles?"
"Iron, perhaps."
"Iron? Iron wouldn't stand a minute. Why, the works in my watch melted and ran down my leg, and it felt cool, cool, 'cause it was liquid. No, sir, iron wasn't no more use than ice. We couldn't use wood, 'cause it caught fire as soon as exposed, so we used salt. We just squirted a stream of salt water straight up through a six-inch nozzle. The heat evaporated the salt water and left a fusible column of salt. That was made it the right height by cutting it off sufficiently at the bottom."
"But how would you run your wire?"
"Didn't, we just pointed it the way we wanted it to go from the top of a hill, and the expansion run it right along from ceiling to column. That's what I call warm weather, that is."
"How fast did the wire snap to go?"
"About eighty miles an hour. We built seven hundred miles of telegraph in one afternoon."
"How did you keep up with it? How could you keep ahead and get your salt columns up fast enough?"
"Well, sir, that was the simplest contrivance ever was. We had two parallel bars of railroad iron and a wagon that just fit the bars. We started a cross-piece to the bar and on it, and fastened the wagon to it. Then we expanded salt-waterways as the rate of a hundred and fifty miles an hour, and carried the wagon right along on its own tracks. We could head off the wire, get up a pole, and hit on a wire and catch up with the end in no time. I'm saying, gentlemen, it was not in that velocity."
"But the men couldn't climb one of these columns?"
"Of course they couldn't—wouldn't hold 'em."
"How did they take the salt water around the insulators? Did you squirt them with the stream?"
"Not we. You can't squirt a man up that way; beside the water was blin' hot. We had four thousand tons of quicksilver, and we put a little on the ground under a man, and it'd raise a man to the top of one of them poles at the rate of a thousand miles a second. That's what I call hot. Now, I'm just shiverin'."
"You must have gauged the quantity of mercury pretty close to stop in the right place?"
"Oh! we got it after awhile. The first five men went up five or six hundred miles, and one of them had to wait until the following winter to get back. We sent him grub and things by the quicksilver communication until he was froze down, and we paid him double wages while he was waitin'."
"Didn't the wire melt?"
"Melt, of course it did."
"Then the line didn't stay up?"
"Didn't it did, and that's just what made it stay up. You know heat runs. Now when we took hitches around the insulators, we left the wire slack, as when it melted it was in place instead of bein' down, and it couldn't fall any more's bricker. The funniest thing in the whole business was that when we got through we had a railroad. Them bars of iron made a splendid good road for summer travel."
"Not for winter, is it?"
"Wasn't worth a nickel for winter. When cool weather came on they contracted so there wasn't no'n a yard and a half of the road left."
"Didn't the telegraph wire contract, too?"
"Some, but not much. It lightened a good deal, but stayed where it was."
"Didn't it break?"
"Couldn't. That wire was melted. You can't break a stream of water, and that wire was liquid."
"Look here, old man," objected the Eagle reporter, "if the winter was cold enough to contract the railroad, it was cold enough to freeze the wire solid."
"Why didn't it do it then? Look here, young man, you want to be polite. Now, I got nothing to do with speculations. I don't in fact, and the oldest inhabitant buttoned up his shirt, adjusted his plush cap, and walked off in disgust."
—CONVICTS' BLUE LAWS.

Their readers may fully understand the nature of the "Blue Laws" of Connecticut, about which so much has been said, we publish them below in full.
The governor and magistrature convened in general assembly are the supreme power under God of this independent dominion.
From the determination of the assembly no appeal shall be made.
The governor is amenable to the voice of the people.
The governor shall not have a single vote in determining any question, except a casting vote, on which the assembly shall be equally divided.
If any person turn Quaker, he shall be banished, and not suffered to return but on pain of death.

No one to cross a river, but with an authorized ferryman.
No one shall run on the Sabbath day, or walk in his garden, or elsewhere, except reverently to and from meeting.
No one shall travel, look victuals, make beds, sweep house, cut hair or shave on the Sabbath day.
The Sabbath shall begin at sunset on Saturday.
To pick an ear of corn growing in a neighbor's garden shall be deemed theft.
A person accused of trespass in the night shall be judged guilty, unless he clear himself by his oath.
No one shall buy or sell land without permission of the selectmen.
The assembly of the people shall not be dismissed by the governor, but shall dismiss itself.
Conspiracy against the dominion shall be punished with death.
The judge shall determine all controversies without jury.
No one shall be a freeman or give a vote unless he be converted and a member in full communion of one of the churches allowed in state.
Each freeman shall swear by the blessed God to bear true allegiance to this dominion, and that Jesus is the only King. No Quaker or dissembler from the established worship of the dominion shall be allowed to give a vote for the election of magistracy or any officers.
No food or lodging shall be offered to a Quaker, Adamlite, or other heretic.
A drunkard shall have a master appointed by the selectmen, who are to deliver him from the liberty of buying or selling.
Whoever publishes a lie to the prejudice of his neighbor, shall be in the stocks or whipped ten stripes.
No minister shall keep a school.
Every rateable person who refuses to pay his portion to support the minister of the town or parish, shall be fined by the board of selectmen every quarter, until he or she pay the rate to the minister.
Men-stealers shall suffer death.
Whoever wears clothes trimmed with gold, silver, or bone lace, above 25 per yard, shall be presented by the grand jurors, and the selectmen shall tax the offender \$300 estate.
A debtor in prison, swearing he has no estate, shall be let and sold to make satisfaction.
Whoever sets a fire in the woods, and it burns a house, shall suffer death; and persons suspected of this crime shall be imprisoned without bail for a term of six months.
Whoever brings words or dice into this dominion shall pay a fine of 25.
No one shall read a common prayerbook, keep Christmas, or set days, eat mince pies, dance, except drums, trumpet, or Jew-harp.
No gayed minister shall join people in marriage. The magistrate only shall join them in marriage, as they may do it with less scandal to Christ's church.
When parents refuse their children convenient marriages, the magistrate shall determine the point.
The selectmen, on finding children ignorant may take them away from their parents and put them in better hands, at the expense of their parents.

GROWTH OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH.—A recent statement of the growth and present condition of the Baptist Church presents the following statistics. In 1793 there were only 36 Baptist churches in America; in 1792 they had increased to 1,000; in 1812 to 2,453; in 1832 to 5,323; in 1852 to more than 9,500; in 1853, without including any of the minor Baptist organizations, to 12,000, with 1,000,000 members, and if the minor bodies are included, to 1,500,000, and an attached population of about 7,500,000 souls. In 1860 the denomination proper possessed 13,470 church organizations and no less than 1,123,148 communicants. According to the census of 1870 the regular Baptist denomination possessed 14,474 church organizations and 12,887 churches, but this is evidently incorrect, inasmuch as the Baptist year book for 1871 shows a return of 17,745 churches. The records of the Government show the following increase in the value of church property during the course of two decades: 1850, value of churches, \$11,039,855; 1870, value of churches, \$19,709,378; 1870, value of churches, \$30,221,321. The foregoing pertains to the regular body. The value of church property for the same periods of other Baptist bodies has been reported as follows: 1850, value of churches, \$133,115; 1860, value of churches, \$1,273,738; 1870, value of churches, \$2,378,977. From 1850 to 1870 the value of church edifices owned by the regular body increased nearly 100 per cent. If this ratio of increase has been kept up during the past decade, the Baptists are the possessors of church property having a value not far from \$80,000,000.

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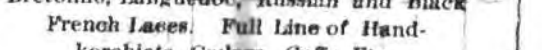
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